

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00938 261918Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, SP, US
SUBJECT: INTELSAT CONSIDERATION OF SHUTTLE AND ARIANE
LAUNCH VEHICLES

REF: STATE 6031

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT REFTEL ON JANUARY 26 WITH ALFREDO BARJAU GUINON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, AND CARLOS HERRERA DE LA ROSA, OF NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF SPAIN (CTNE). HERRERA DE LA ROSA IS ALTERNATE DELEGATE FOR SPAIN TO INTELSAT BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PLANS TO ATTEND MEETING STARTING FEBRUARY 1. MR. MARTINEZ VILLAREJO, WHO IS COORDINATOR OF INTELSAT AFFAIRS FOR CTNE AND SPAIN'S DELEGATE TO BOARD, WILL REPORTEDLY BE CHAIRMAN OF BOARD FOR FEBRUARY MEETING. UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS OUT SICK JANUARY 26, BUT EMBOFF ASKED THAT HE BE PROVIDED WITH COPY OF AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH WAS LEFT PER PARA. 8 REFTEL.

2. SPANISH OFFICIALS LISTENED TO EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION, BUT AT CONCLUSION STATED THEY WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT INTELSAT NEEDS TO MAKE DECISION AT THIS TIME. AS BARJAU
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PAGE 02 MADRID 00938 261918Z

EXPLAINED, INTELSAT IS SMALL PART OF NASA'S BUSINESS, WHICH IS PRIMARILY ORIENTATED TOWARDS USG INTERESTS AND PROGRAMS. IF CONGRESS DECIDES TO CUT BACK NASA BUDGET SEVERELY PRODUCTION OF ATLAS CENTAUR MISSILES MIGHT BE TERMINATED OR REDUCED TO POINT WHERE COSTS FOR INTELSAT WOULD INCREASE SEVERELY. BARJAU SAID THAT INTELSAT HAD TO CONSIDER LONG-TERM CASE, NOT JUST LAUNCH OF F-5

THROUGH F-7 SATELLITES. FROM THIS ASPECT NEED WAS FELT TO DEVELOP ALTERNATE SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

3. ACCORDING TO SPANISH THERE ARE THREE MAIN GROUPS IN INTELSAT ON THIS MATTER: U.S. FAVORS NASA, EUROPEANS FAVOR ARIANE (ESA) AND OTHER GENERALLY FAVOR MOST ECONOMICAL MISSILE. BARJAU SAID THAT SPANISH FIRM CASA HAS SMALL PART IN PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF ARIANE, PROBABLY ABOUT 2-3 PER CENT. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMED THAT SPANISH SUPPORT FOR IDEA OF KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN IS BASED NOT ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC REASONS, NOR ON POLITICAL REASONS, BUT SIMPLY ON BELIEF THAT IN LONG RUN INTELSAT MUST DEVELOP AN ALTERNATE TO NASA. HE REFERRED AT ONE POINT TO POSSIBLE INTELSAT APPROACH TO SOVIETS FOR LAUNCH ASSISTANCE, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOON. STABLER

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